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THE BRAILLE BOOK REVIEW  
A Guide To New Braille Publications

Specimen

Sent Oct. 1931

A Monthly Periodical in Braille  
Grade One and a Half

Distributed Free To Blind Readers Throughout the World  
Annual Enrollment Fee Fifty Cents For Mailing Charges  
To Be Remitted With Application  
74 Rue Lauriston, Paris, France.

Financed jointly by the American Braille Press and  
The New York Public Library (Homes Fund)

Edited by  
Lucille A. Goldthwaite  
The New York Public Library  
New York City

Printed and Published by the

AMERICAN BRAILLE PRESS

FOR

WAR and Civilian Blind Inc

Wm. Nelson Cromwell  
President

H. W. Riecken  
TreasurerGeneral

George L. Raverat  
Secretary General

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1931

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABFR	American Brotherhood of Free Reading for the Blind 1544 Hudson Avenue, Los Angeles, California.
ALA	American Library Association.
APH	American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Ky.
ARC	American Red Cross, 315 Lexington Avenue, N.Y.C.
CPH	Cloverbrook Printing House for the Blind, Mt. Healthy, Ohio.
HC	Hand - a - press.
IMP	Howe Memorial Press, Perkins Institution, Watertown, Mass.
P.W.	Reading with a Braille Series.
UBP	Universal Braille Press, 739 N. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

8-5 Ink Publishing Society, 20 - 1st Street, Philadelphia.

# LIST OF AGENCIES

1907	Western Association of Free Press for the Blind
	1844 Kansas Agency, Los Angeles, California
1911	Western Library Association
1912	Western Printing House for the Blind, Los Angeles, Cal.
1913	Western Book Trust, 115-117 1st Avenue, N.Y.C.
1914	International Printing House for the Blind, 115-117 1st Ave., N.Y.C.
1915	Howe Printing Press, Western Printing House, Los Angeles, Cal.
1916	International Printing Press, 730 E. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California



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RWAP

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Readings of Literature, by Louise Weber.



## Foreword

This new monthly magazine, the Braille Book Review, sponsored by the American Braille Press and The New York Public Library, has a definite service to offer. Its aim is to stimulate an interest in reading among those who read by touch. This field has not been covered by other braille magazines in America, for the majority of these are concerned with affairs of general interest and none have specialized in literary news.

We are living in what is often referred to as a great reading age. Certainly every imaginable device which may tend to develop the reading habit is being brought to bear upon the public. Librarians are especially concerned at present with the encouragement of reading among adults. Their technical journals teem with the reports of committees formed to investigate and to study the reading of adults from every conceivable point of view. But while every effort is made to cultivate reading among the adults who see, little has been done to tempt the reader who is blind to develop the same habit. Owing to the expense involved, direct information to blind readers concerning the literature at their command has been necessarily limited. Librarians have realized this but can do little beyond supplying the usual printed catalogs and an occasional embossed one. Editors have realized it and have given space to book announcements, but these measures are not enough. The Federal appropriation of \$100,000 is an accomplished fact. In time a good collection of literature will result. It has become necessary to develop some means by which readers may keep themselves informed of new publications and be given some technical aid in the use of the library resources of the country. The Braille Book Review will attempt to give this service. We ask you indulgence as editorship is new to us. The program outlined below is to a certain extent tentative and may undergo some changes in response to demands from the public. Constructive suggestions will be welcome but lack of time makes it impossible to acknowledge letters from readers.

The program will include:

1. Announcements of new publications. With the co-operation of the publishing houses for the blind, each issue of the magazine will give a list of the books published during the preceding month. A brief descriptive note or a short book review will accompany each title.



These will usually be taken from one of three sources: The Booklist, the 1926 Catalog (both of which are publications of the American Library Association), or the Book Review Digest of the H.W. Wilson Company. This company is known to the library profession as the source of many excellent lists and catalogs--a provider of library tools. The greater part of the magazine will probably consist of these announcements.

2. Library and press notes. These will include news items and occasional articles on the work of the various libraries and printing houses for the blind written by those best qualified for the task.

3. Reading lists on special subjects, such as radio, salesmanship, Russia, etc., in short, any subject for which there seems to be a sufficient demand. These lists will include material in grade 2 and books made by hand, as well as books in grade 1 from the presses.

4. Reprints of sketches of living authors.

5. If space permits, reprinted articles dealing with the best literature of the past.

The present copy of this magazine is a specimen copy. The magazine will be published monthly by the American Braille Press beginning January 1932. It will carry an average of 64 pages per issue. The nominal registration fee will be the same as for all periodicals from the press, namely, 50 cents per annum. Applications giving clearly full name and address, with 50 cents either in American stamps or preferably in international money order should be sent to the "Braille Book Review", American Braille Press, 74 Rue Lauriston, Paris, France.

Applicants are earnestly requested to put a five cent stamp on their letters and also to state clearly that this remittance applies to the new "Braille Book Review." Should the number of subscriptions prove insufficient, the money will be returned. The advance copy is being sent to all registered readers of the "American Review for the Blind," and the "International Braille Magazine." We shall be glad to send a specimen copy to any person whose name is suggested by any of our readers.



These will usually be taken from one of three sources. The Booklist, the Index, and the Review of Books, are publications of the American Library Association, or the Book Review Society of America. This company is known to the Library Association as the source of many excellent lists and catalogs--a provider of library tools. The review part of the magazine will probably consist of these announcements.

2. Library and press notes. These will include news items and occasional articles on the work of the various libraries and on library matters for the period covered by those most qualified for the task.

3. Reading lists on special subjects, such as travel, bibliography, history, etc., in short, any subject for which there seems to be a sufficient demand. These lists will include material in grade 8 and books made by name, as well as books in grade 7, from the press.

4. Separate or sketches of library articles.

5. If space permits, reprinted articles dealing with the new literature of the past. The present copy of this magazine is a special copy. The magazine will be published monthly by the American Library Association, January 1960. It will carry an average of 16 pages per issue. The annual subscription fee will be one dollar for all persons living in the press, namely, 50 cents per annum. Applications should be sent to the American Library Association, 24 Rue de la Paix, Paris, France.

Applicants are earnestly requested to send a five cent stamp on their letter and also to state clearly that this assistance applies to the new "Library Review". Should the number of subscriptions prove insufficient, the money will be returned. The advance copy is being sent to all registered readers of the "American Review for the Blind", and the "International Library Magazine". We shall be glad to send a second copy to any person whose name is suggested by any of our readers.

Recent Publications

Addams, Jane. Second twenty years at Hull-house, September 1909 to September 1929. 1930.

5v. AFH This book is less occupied with the activities of the famous settlement house than with the author's reflections on the world affairs of these twenty years. It is sound, constructive comment.

Bacheller, Irving A. Candle in the wilderness. 1930. 3v. HMP A story of romance and adventure, the scene laid in New England about 1634.

Bailey, Temple. Princess Anne. 1917. 2v. CPH Romance in which the scene changes from a quiet Southern town to fashionable New York and three love affairs run to a comfortable conclusion.

Bennett, Arnold. How to live on 24 hours a day. 1910. AFH Essays which reflect upon the value of a day; brief, witty and at the same time full of excellent practical advice.

Biggers, Earl D. Black camel. 1929. 2v. AFH Detective story, leads reader through a maze of difficulties that both delight and bewilder.

Bowers, Claude G. Jefferson and Hamilton; the struggle for democracy in America. 1925. 6v. URP A section of American history written with meticulous care for its authenticity, yet having the graphic power of a great drama. Professor Wm. E. Dodd, American History Department, University of Chicago, writes: The most interesting book that has ever been written about the two greatest antagonists this country has produced...If the reader wishes to know the spirit of that stormy age, the fundamental differences of parties, he can nowhere find a better portrait and assessment of them; not a word of propaganda, or a line of misrepresentation, and all in a form and style that distinguish the author.

Boyd, James. Marching on. 1927. 5v. AFH A fine historical novel which recreates the period of the Civil War with vivid realism and from a somewhat unusual point of view--that of a North Carolina farmer who, although too poor to possess slaves, considers himself equal in birth of the wealthy plantation owner. James Fraser, the hero, is a descendant of that other Fraser who appeared in Drums (in braille).



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- Udell, Richard E. Little America. 1930. 4v. UBP This narrative of the Byrd Antarctic expedition, which takes its title from the base established on the Ross Ice Barrier is a general account of the expedition, the scientific records of which will be published later. The account of the elaborate preparations, the trip to the Bay of Whales, the building of Little America and its radio towers, the long winter there, the flight to the Pole on Thanksgiving Day--all this is a story of the successful application of radio, aviation, and engineering to the most difficult voyage of discovery.
- Byrne, Donn. Brother Saul. 1927. 6v. APH A novel based upon the dramatic incidents of St. Paul's life and wanderings, with a brilliant background of shifting scenes in the days of early Christianity.
- Caldwell, Otis W. and E.E.Slosson, ed. Science remaking the world. 1923. 4v. APH Sixteen lectures interpreting modern science as it appears in the home, street and factory by explaining recent discoveries and applications, the efforts which have led to them and the personalities concerned in them.
- Couzens, Reginald C. Stories of the months and days. 2v. APH Gives a general historical account of the division of time. Groups myths and legends under months and days of the week with quotations from literature.
- Davis, Wm.S. Gilman of Redford; a story of Boston and Harvard College on the eve of the revolution. 1927. 8v. APH Unusually good historical novel picturing New England's social life and customs during that period.
- De La Roche, Mazo. White-oaks of Jalna. 1929. 3v. APH Sequel to "Jalna" which is noted in the Booklist as a vivid and passionate domestic picture of life on a large Canadian farm, an unusual family group, most unusually portrayed. Humor, drama, and pathos have been woven dexterously into one theme. In "White-oaks of Jalna" the history of this turbulent family continues with young Finch as the central figure.
- Dictionary of the English language, pocket edition, abridged from the Funk and Wagnalls Standard dictionary. New edition. 4v. APH Price \$10. In this edition new plates and the most improved methods of printing have been used.

and the most improved method of printing have been used.  
 Dictionary of the English Language, pocket edition, binding from the Park and ...  
 of this turbulent family continued with young Finch as the central figure.  
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 Canadian farm, as a usual family group, most unobtrusively portrayed. History, drama, and  
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 De la Roche, Wanda. White-oaks of Taina. 1939. 3v. Wb. bound in "Taina" which is  
 social life and customs during that period.  
 revelation. 1937. 8v. Wb. Unusually good historical novel picture of New England's  
 David, Wm. J. Dinner of Bedford: a story of Boston and Harvard College on the eve of the  
 week with quotations from literature.  
 account of the division of that. Groups of the and legends under monism and days of the  
 Comrades, Feminists. . . stories of the North and days. 1v. Wb. Gives a general historical  
 led to them and two personalities concerned in them.  
 factory is explaining recent discoveries and scientific, the efforts which have  
 sixteen lectures interesting women science as it appears in the home, street and  
 Caldwell, Clara. . . and E. L. Johnson, ed. Science reaching the world. 1938. 1v. Wb.  
 the days of early Christianity.  
 of a small life and wanderings, with a brilliant background of English scenes in  
 three, John. Brother Saul. 1937. 8v. Wb. A novel based upon the dramatic incidents  
 cation of radio, aviation, and engineering to the most difficult voyage of discovery.  
 limit to the tale on Thanksgiving Day--all this is a story of the successful and  
 Wales, the building of Little America and his main theme, the long winter there, the  
 issued later. The account of the elaborate preparation, the trip to the Bay of  
 is a general account of the expedition, the scientific records of which will be  
 condition, with some of the data collected on the long ice winter  
 and, Richard E. Little America. 1930. 1v. Wb. This narrative of the long winter

- Eastman, Max. Enjoyment of poetry. 1921. 2v. APH A stimulating book for the lover of poetry, emphasizing the poetic impulse wherever it is found and relating it to the appreciation of great poetry.
- Eaton, Jeannette. Daughter of the Seine. 1929. 2v. ABNR Biography of Madame Roland for young people giving a picture of life in Paris in the days preceding and during the French revolution.
- Fabre, Jean, H. Wonder book of chemistry. 1922. 5v. CPH Though frankly a juvenile, it is dignified enough for adult reading. Being Fabre's its absolute clearness goes without saying. Naturally it considers only the simplest topics but it opens up the field.
- Glover, T.R. The Jesus of history. 1917. 5v. ARC "A remarkable book and the best one I know for beginning a course of study in the life of Christ. The author is a famous classical scholar in St. John's College, Cambridge, England, a noted historian. His wide knowledge of the language in which the Gospels are written enables him often to seize some fresh point which had passed unsuspected before, and his peculiar insight and spirit make him succeed where others have failed. This book breaks a fresh path." Quoted in part from Rufus M. Jones in "The life of Christ", one of the RWA0 series.
- Grey, Zane. Sunset Pass. 1931. 5v. CPH Story of ranch life, full of action, with an undercurrent of mystery.
- Halliburton, Richard. New worlds to conquer. 1929. 2v. UBP Travels and adventure in Mexico and South American countries; ending with a trip to Robinson Crusoe's island where the author relives for three weeks Crusoe's story.
- Harrington, H.F. Chats on feature writing. 1925. 5v. UBP Practical information about one of the most interesting branches of newspaper work. Contains a world of good advice to prospective feature writers together with a careful analysis of several types of feature stories and a discussion of the marketing of such work. Recommended by W.G.Bleyer in his course on "Journalism", one of the RWAP series.



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Hart, J.K. Social life and institutions: an elementary study of society. 1924. 5v.

APH The author sets out to introduce the school boy to society and does it skillfully and well. The book is intended for high school study and by its simplified but inclusive method of approach should prove itself valuable for that purpose.

Hemon, Louis. Maria Chapdelaine, a tale of the Lake St. John country. 1924. 2v. APH Embossed several years ago by the Canadian National Institute. Poetic tale of pioneer life in French Canada.

Howells, W.D. Rise of Silas Lapham. 10v. ARC Probably the most popular of his novels. The story of a self-made American, his two daughters, and their contacts with Boston society. Howells excelled in the delineation of older men, and Silas Lapham is one of the most successful characters.

Jeans, Sir James H. Mysterious universe. 1930. 2v. APH Some of the most important discoveries and theories of physical science are discussed by the author and in the last chapter he gives his own conclusions concerning the facts presented by modern science.

LaFarge, Oliver. Laughing Boy. 1929. 5v. ARC An unusually interesting novel of modern Indian life, showing familiarity with Navaho character, country and customs.

Larrimore, Lida. Mulberry Square. 2v. CPH A light and pleasant love story.

Larrimore, Lida. The wagon and the star. 1921. 4v. CPH A romance in which all goes well.

Lewis, Sinclair. Babbitt. 1922. 4v. ABFR Satire on American middle-class life in a good sized city. Babbitt is a successful real estate man, a regular fellow, booster, Rotarian, Elk, Republican, who uses all the current catchwords, molds his opinions on those of the Zenith Advocate Times and believes in a sound business administration in Washington. Author won the Nobel prize with this book.

McCann, Rebecca. The cheerful cherub. CPH Random thoughts in light verse. A good gloom chaser.

Mathews, Shailer. French revolution: Revised edition. 1923. APH An excellent work which first appeared in 1901. It now includes a section on the Napoleonic period and lays greater stress on the economic forces which helped to bring about the revolution.



- Millikan, Robert A. Science and the new civilization. 1930. APH In these five essays Dr. Millikan, a leading American physicist who has been awarded the Nobel prize, makes a plea for science as the benefactor of modern life. He believes that scientific discoveries in so far as they affect this machine age are agencies of inestimable good in that they free civilization, step by step, from its ancient bondage. In his concluding essay, entitled Three Great Elements, he attempts to show that modern science is not inimical to man's religious beliefs.
- Mills, Enos A. Rocky Mountain wonderland. 1915. 3v. CPH Graphic description of mountain, forest and lake, wild life and personal adventures.
- Oemler, M.C. Sheaves; a comedy of manners. 1930. 5v. APH Light love story of work, play and romantic difficulties.
- Palmer, George H. Self-cultivation in English. 1925. Revised Edition. APH A brief address, itself an example of good English, stimulating the reader to cultivate effectiveness and ease in speaking and writing. It is used at Harvard University in the course in English composition for foreigners.
- Scarpini, J. Georges. A challenge to darkness. 1929. UBP An autobiography of a blind French deputy who lost his sight during the war at the age of twenty; introduction by Helen Keller.
- Scott, W.D. & D.T. Howard. Influencing men in business. 1916. UBP. Points out in an interesting and non-technical way the principles underlying good salesmanship and the application of these principles in everyday business affairs as well as in the process of selling commodities. The book is in the nature of a series of talks on how man's minds work rather than a textbook on psychology.
- Singmaster, Elsie. You make your own luck. 1929. 2v. CPH Light romance of life in Virginia.
- Skinner, Constance L. The white leader. 1926. 4v. ARC An exciting tale of the Tennessee border in the hazardous days that followed the Revolutionary War. Well told and some older readers who enjoy a boy's good book will like it.





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Smith, Charles A. What can literature do for me? 1924. 3v. APH Friendly, practical talks on how literature can make life richer and fuller. It shows broad familiarity with the subject, is full of illustrative material, and especially notable for simplicity, freshness and enthusiasm.

Stetson, E.T. Man and the stars. 1930. 3v. APH A readable account of the outstanding events in man's discovery of a universe and the effect of these events upon man's reaction to his environment. A brief and lucid account of astronomical theory as it stands today with concluding chapters on the philosophical implications of the new physical knowledge.

Sullivan, Mark. Our times; the United States, 1900-1925. 15v. APH Pt. 1. The turn of the century, 1900-1904. This is not only an accurate and unprejudiced historical record, but it succeeds through simplicity of style and abundance of detail in actually re-creating the atmosphere of the time. There is hardly a phase of that past era, which knew little of the automobile and the electric tram and nothing whatever of modernism and jazz, that Mr. Sullivan does not recall. Pt.2. America finding herself. A dashing journal of our political and social panorama for the second half decade of this country, oil, railroads, steel, aviation, song, story and fashion thrown in. Mr. Sullivan bestows two crowns, The bay to McGaffey, the laurel to Roosevelt. Pt. 3. The title of this third part is misleading for it is a further study of the first decade of the century, mostly of the condition of 1906-1908. The same shrewd choice of detail and illustration that made the previous books such lively and popular reading appear again and we are told about Roosevelt and Taft, the railroads, business scandals, the conquest of the hookworm, and the songs, books, and plays that were the current best sellers.

Thomas, Lowell J. India: land of the black pagoda. 1930. 4v. APH An account of a two year's journey through India, without propaganda of any sort, no judgments and no panaceas.



With, Charles A. has an illustration on the last page. It shows a scene of a village on the left and a scene of a village on the right. It shows a scene of a village on the left and a scene of a village on the right. It shows a scene of a village on the left and a scene of a village on the right.

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- Titchener, E.B. Primer of psychology. Revised edition. 1925. 6v. AMH A textbook, first published in 1898. Has run through many editions.
- Tufts, James H. Real business of living. 1918. 7v. AMH An unusual textbook for training in citizenship. Incidentally very good reading though a little academic.
- Williams, S.R. Knitting directions. 2v. ARC
- Wilson, Woodrow. George Washington. 1896. 2v. UBP Dr. Hart in his outline of George Washington, one of the RMAP series, says in part, that "this book has had less influence on American thought than it deserves. It was written many years before Wilson had any thought of following Washington in the line of presidents. Woodrow Wilson was possessed of a striking literary style which served him well in his state paper and addresses as governor of New Jersey and later as president. That same style pervades his 'Washington'. To the reflective reader it is a good and helpful book. It gives due space to Washington's early life, part of which was passed in the Shenandoeh Valley region where Wilson was born."
- Wright, Harold B. Exit. 1930. 4v. CPH Love story of two generations which takes place in a small town in Ohio and partly in the world of the theatre.

Titchener, E. B. Primer of psychology. Revised edition. 1927. 100 pp. 12s. 6d. London, Great

published in 1927. Has two editions.

Titchener, E. B. Realism in psychology. 1908. 100 pp. 12s. 6d. London, Great

publishing in 1908. Titchener is a good reading though a little tedious.

Titchener, E. B. Little's psychology. 1908. 100 pp.

Titchener, E. B. Little's psychology. 1908. 100 pp. 12s. 6d. London, Great

publishing, one of the best series, with this book has two late editions

on psychology though it is somewhat. It is well known that Titchener is a

book of psychology. The first of these is the first of these is the first of these

of a striking history. This book is well known in the field of psychology

as a history of psychology and later as a history. This book is well known in the

field. To the reader who is a good and helpful book. It gives the reader

to Titchener's early life, and it is well known in the field of psychology

where it is well known.

Titchener, E. B. Little's psychology. 1908. 100 pp. 12s. 6d. London, Great

place in a small town in the field of psychology.

## How the Federal Appropriation for Books for the Adult Blind is being Spent.

The appointment of Dr. R. H. B. Meyer as Director of Project of Books for the Blind, is a most happy selection on the part of Dr. Putnam, Librarian of Congress. Dr. Meyer is the Director of Legislative Information to the Senate in the Library of Congress and adds the supervision of this Federal appropriation to his other duties. He brings administrative experience, a wide knowledge of books and sound judgment to his task. We have received from him the following statement in regard to his new work together with a list of the books selected for embossing:

"Preliminary operations connected with the purchase of books for the adult blind out of the \$100,000 appropriation made by Congress were begun before the appropriation became available on July 1st. Our first efforts were to secure a list of books to be embossed. These efforts resulted in the list given below, largely the selection of blind readers themselves. This list was ready by the end of July and was submitted to the various presses for consideration, and we hope to place our orders about the end of August. It is interesting to note the inclusion of two classics in this first list, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, and Homer's Iliad in the prose translation of Andrew Lang and his friends. These were selected by blind readers themselves, and secured enough votes from librarians to get into the final list. The appropriation will be about evenly divided between fiction and non-fiction, which is the accepted standard division in the library world, and this will be maintained until it is clearly indicated by experience that some other division is to be preferred. We have under consideration some plan whereby almost automatically, a book a month in both fiction and non-fiction will appear, thus giving the blind readers of the country an opportunity for the first time to keep abreast of the best literature of the day. We shall make a special effort to braille at least one volume in each subject of the "Reading with a purpose" series. The older blind readers who are limited to the use of Moon type will be taken care of. We are prepared to spend from ten to twelve thousand dollars for books in Moon type, and have taken the preliminary steps to place our first orders."



See the bottom of page 10 for the name of the person who was the first to see the body.

The following is a list of the books which have been received from the following donors:

These were collected as blind market observations, and were given  
Cassidy's Confidential File, and Cassidy's File in the name of Cassidy's  
agent. It is interesting to note the inclusion of two also in the list,  
various names and organizations, and we hope to place an order about the end of  
these materials. This list was ready by the end of July and was submitted to the  
board. These efforts resulted in the list given below, largely the selection of blind  
some available on July 1st. Our first effort was to secure a list of people to be  
to the 100,000 organizations made by Cassidy were given between the organizations be-  
"Religious" connections with the purpose of being for the blind mind and

[illegible]



Tentative list of books selected by librarians and others to be embossed from the Federal appropriation:

- Barnes, Margaret. Years of Grace. 1930.
- Beard, C.A. The Rise of American Civilization. 1927.
- Bennett, Arnold. The Old Wives' Tale. 1909.
- Buck, Pearl S. The Good Earth. 1931.
- Chase, Stuart. The Nemesis of American Business. 1931.
- Chaucer. The Canterbury Tales. (Text of W.W.Skeat - Oxford Edition.)
- Fernald, James C. English Synonyms, Antonyms and Prepositions. 1929.
- Gibbons, H.A. The New Map of Asia. 1919.
- Gibbons, H.A. The New Map of Europe. 1917.
- Hindus, Maurice. Humanity Uprooted. 1931.
- Homer. The Iliad. (Lang, Leaf, Myers translation.)
- Hugo, Victor. Les Miserables. (Waxall translation.)
- Huntington, Ellsworth. The Human Habitat. 1927.
- Jones, Rufus M. Finding the Trail of Life. 1926.
- Mitchell, J.A. Pandora's Box. 1911.
- Roseman, Alice G. Jock the Scot. 1930.
- Russell, Bertrand. The Conquest of Happiness. 1930.
- Upton, George F. The Standard Operas. 1928.
- Van Tyne, Claude H. The Causes of the War of Independence. 1922.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1. The first of these is the fact that the system is not a simple one, but a complex one, involving many different factors and many different people. The second is that the system is not a static one, but a dynamic one, which is constantly changing and evolving. The third is that the system is not a closed one, but an open one, which is constantly interacting with the outside world. The fourth is that the system is not a linear one, but a non-linear one, which is characterized by feedback loops and other non-linear relationships. The fifth is that the system is not a deterministic one, but a probabilistic one, which is characterized by uncertainty and risk. The sixth is that the system is not a single one, but a multiple one, which is characterized by many different goals and objectives. The seventh is that the system is not a simple one, but a complex one, involving many different factors and many different people. The eighth is that the system is not a static one, but a dynamic one, which is constantly changing and evolving. The ninth is that the system is not a closed one, but an open one, which is constantly interacting with the outside world. The tenth is that the system is not a linear one, but a non-linear one, which is characterized by feedback loops and other non-linear relationships. The eleventh is that the system is not a deterministic one, but a probabilistic one, which is characterized by uncertainty and risk. The twelfth is that the system is not a single one, but a multiple one, which is characterized by many different goals and objectives.

RMAP

These are not the initials of a new broadcasting station, as you might suppose, but of a series of reading courses inaugurated and developed by the American Library Association and known as the Reading With a Purpose series. They cover a great variety of subjects. Some sixty odd numbers have been published. Each course comprises an outline which serves as an introduction to the subject treated by it and also includes a list of books recommended for reading on this subject. The printed copies are in the form of small pamphlets. The entire series has been embossed by the Universal Braille Press and may be borrowed from any library for the blind.

Some of these will naturally be of more interest to blind readers than others. The outline on music called "Ears to Hear" and that on salesmanship will be read more than one on "Pleasures from Pictures". Some of the books recommended are in braille, unfortunately many more are not. But from time to time titles from these recommended lists will no doubt be embossed.

In order to demonstrate how these courses may be used take the one on "Some Great American Books", by Dallas Lore Sharp. In this outline the author recommends and comments on twelve books nine of which are in braille. The outline and seven of these nine books may be borrowed from most of the libraries. These seven are: Sketch book, by Washington Irving; Last of the Mohicans, by James F. Cooper; Essays, first series, by Emerson; Rise of Silas Lapham, by W.D. Howells; Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain; Gentle reader, by Samuel Crothers; Life and letters of Walter H. Page. Of the remaining two, Ethan Frome, by Edith Wharton, may be had from the libraries of Detroit, New York City, and Portland, Oregon; The Scarlet Letter, by Hawthorne, from the libraries of New York City and Portland, Oregon, only.

These are not the initials of a new international organization, as has been stated elsewhere, but of a series of reading courses inaugurated and developed by the American Library Association and known as the Reading Circle. Each course covers a great variety of subjects. Some thirty odd numbers have been published, each course comprising an outline which serves as an introduction to the subject treated by it and also includes a list of books recommended for reading on this subject. The outline topics are in the form of well-arranged paragraphs. The outline series has been successful in the past and this series may be borrowed from and adapted for the blind.

Some of these will naturally be of more interest to clinical workers than to the general public. The outline of a book called "How to Keep an Eye on a Patient" will be of more than one on "First Aid for Nurses". Some of the books recommended for the public, unfortunately many were not sold. But the time is now when these recommendations should be made.

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A SAMPLE READING LIST  
(From the July Bulletin of the American Library Association.)

The following reading list was prepared by the librarian of the Milwaukee Public Library to illustrate a simplified reading course with a very few good books, complementary to each other and likely to be in the average library. The editor of the Braille Book Review would appreciate comments from readers as to the usability of such simplified lists on reasonably popular subjects. In reprints of this kind should titles which are mentioned in the original list but which are not in braille, be included?

MEN AND EVENTS OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

That history need not be a tedious study of cold fact is evident to those who have learned events and background through the medium of historical novels. An excellent insight into early American history may be acquired by the reading of a few such books, each of which offers diversion as well as a store of valuable knowledge.

Those who are interested in the discovery of America, its exploration and colonization, will not want to miss three novels which many other readers have thoroughly enjoyed. Both before and after reading these, however, it may be well to review the events of the period. The few chapters covering the age of discovery and settlement, as found in any standard American history, will provide the desired information, but we particularly recommend "The rise of American civilization" by Charles A. and Mary Beard, the first four chapters of which cover this period.

Begin your reading of the novels with "1492" by Mary Johnston. Well as you may know the story of Columbus you will find this tale one of breathless interest. Through the eyes of Jayme de Marcheno, an invented character, you will follow Columbus from his first voyage to his death on Ascension Day. Although the author remains very close to historical fact she breathes into the familiar tale a new life which brings close to us the brilliance of another age.

"The scarlet letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne is perhaps the greatest of all American novels. You are undoubtedly familiar with the story, which is pure fiction. We recommend

The following reading list was prepared by the American Library Association to illustrate a simplified reading course with a very few good books, supplementary to those often and likely to be in the average library. The editor of the American Book Review would appreciate comments from readers as to the usefulness of such simplified lists of recommended popular subjects. In compiling this list we consulted the original list but which are not in detail, as follows:

AMERICAN HISTORY

That history need not be a tedious study of cold fact is evident to those who have learned events and background through the medium of historical novels. An excellent insight into early American history may be acquired by the reading of a few such books, each of which offers diversion as well as a store of valuable knowledge. Those who are interested in the discovery of America, its settlement and colonization will not want to miss three novels which many other readers have thoroughly enjoyed. Both before and after reading these, however, it may be well to review the events of the period. The few chapters covering the age of discovery and settlement, as found in the history of American history, will provide the desired information, but as particularly recommended. The rise of American civilization by Charles C. and Mary Beard, the first two volumes of which cover this period.

Begin your reading of the novels with "The Sign of the Cross" by Mary Johnston. Tell us you may know the story of Columbus you will find this the one of greatest interest. Through the eyes of James de Marcheno, an invented character, you will follow Columbus from his first voyage to his death on Ascension Day. Although the author remains very close to historical fact she breathes into the familiar tale a new life which brings close to us the brilliance of another age.

"The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne is perhaps the greatest of all American novels. You are undoubtedly familiar with the story, which is pure fiction. It is recommended.

it on this course for its background of the colonial life and its ideas of New England.

The southern colonies and early life in Kentucky are revealed in the third novel, the author of which, Elizabeth Madox Roberts, is a native of Kentucky and knows her subject, Kentucky's history and people. In "The great meadow" she devotes her attention to a group of pioneers who came out from Virginia, following in the footsteps of Daniel Boone. Although the story begins some years before the Revolution and continues beyond it, only the distant rumblings of the war are heard, for this is primarily a pioneer story, concerned with an interpretation of the pioneer spirit.

#### OTHER BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY

Pere Marquette, by Agnes Repplier. Charmingly told biography of the great-hearted, fragile priest, pioneer and adventurer, who with Joliet first explored the Mississippi. Hand made copies in the Chicago and New York City libraries.

A mirror for witches, by Esther Forbes. Fiction form of that period in New England's history when the witchcraft persecution was rife. Not in braille.

The Virginians, by W.M.Thackeray. Events in the lives of the grandsons of the Thackeray character, Henry Esmond, in America and England, 1785-77. Not in braille up to date.

Henry Esmond is in braille.

Knickerbocker's history of New York, by Washington Irving. More humor than history in this kindly satire, in which fact and droll fiction are inextricably mingled. Not in braille.

Autobiography, by Benjamin Franklin. A most readable account of the writer's early life.

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## HOW TO USE THE LIBRARIES

Below is a list of the libraries which have been selected as distributing centers for the books embossed from the Federal appropriation. These, together with the Library of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, will comprise the principal libraries of the United States and Canada. At present the collections are quite unequal in size. Nevertheless readers are expected to use the one nearest to them whenever possible and to apply elsewhere only when necessary. The service will be speeded up if applicants when requesting books from distant centers will explain their reasons for doing so.

All of the libraries listed here will carry books in grade 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  and most of them have books in the Moon type. According to the latest printed report of the Committee on Work with the Blind of the American Library Association reading matter in grade 2 may be had from the libraries as follows: Library of Congress and the National Library for the Blind, Washington, D.C., the state libraries of California and New York, the public libraries in Cincinnati, Chicago, New York City, St. Louis, the Canadian National Institute, Toronto, Canada; and to a limited extent from Detroit and Seattle.

The Library of Congress owns a larger collection of the handmade books than any other library. Nearly every collection contains a certain number of hand made volumes not to be found elsewhere. A union list of non-fiction hand made books has recently been issued by the Library of Congress. A fuller notice of this list is given under Library and Press Notes.

The New York Public Library, New York City, is building up a large collection of braille music and of literature on the subject. Both the music scores and the literature are for circulation throughout the United States and Canada.

### List of libraries selected as distribution centers:

California. California State Library, Sacramento.

Colorado. Denver Public Library, Denver.

HOW TO USE THE LITERATURE

Below is a list of the literature which have been selected as representative sources for the books mentioned from the Federal application. These, together with the list of the Canadian literature for the blind, will be sent to the National Library of the United States and Canada. At present the collection is not complete in that the books referred are expected to meet the one hundred to two hundred books and to be in essence only when necessary. The matter will be discussed in its relation to representative books from blind centers all a claim their reasons for doing so.

All of the literature listed here will carry books in French, English and some books in the Moon type. According to the latest printed report of the Committee on the blind of the American Library Association reading matter in French is very limited from the literature as follows: Library of Congress and the National Library for the blind, New York, the State Libraries of California and New York, the Public Library in Cincinnati, Chicago, New York City, St. Louis, the Canadian National Institute, Toronto, Canada; and to a limited extent from Toronto and Montreal.

The Library of Congress owns a larger collection of the handmade books than any other library. Nearly every collection contains a certain number of hand made volumes and so be found elsewhere. A nation list of non-fiction hand made books has recently been issued by the Library of Congress. A fuller list of titles is given under Library and Press Notes.

The New York Public Library, New York City, is holding up a large collection of Braille and of literature on the subject. Both the Public Library and the American Library Association throughout the United States and Canada.

- List of libraries selected as distribution centers.
- California. California State Library, Sacramento.
  - Colorado. Denver Public Library, Denver.

16 12  
District of Columbia. Library of Congress.

----- National Library for the Blind, 1800 D Street, N.W. Washington.

~~Honolulu. Library of Hawaii.~~

Georgia. Georgia Library Commission, Atlanta.

~~Honolulu. Library of Hawaii.~~

Illinois. Chicago Public Library, Chicago.

Massachusetts. Perkins Institution Library, Watertown.

Michigan. Detroit Public Library, Lothrop Branch, Detroit.

----- Michigan State Library for the Blind, Saginaw.

Missouri. St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis.

New York. New York Public Library, 5th Avenue, and 42nd Street, New York City.

----- New York State Library, Albany, New York.

Ohio. Cincinnati Public Library, Vine Street, Cincinnati.

----- Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland.

Pennsylvania. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh.

----- Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, Philadelphia.

Texas. Texas State Library, Austin.

Washington. Seattle Public Library, Seattle.

Canada. Canadian National Institute Library, 64 Baldwin Street, Toronto, Canada. (Does not

receive books from Federal funds.)

~~Honolulu. Library of Hawaii.~~

- District of Columbia. Library of Congress.
- National Library for the Blind, 1800 D Street, N.W. Washington.
- Atlanta Library Commission, Atlanta.*  
*Chicago Public Library, Chicago.*  
Illinois.
- Massachusetts. Perkins Institution Library, Watertown.
- Michigan. Detroit Public Library, Lothrop Branch, Detroit.
- Michigan State Library for the Blind, Saginaw.
- Missouri. St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis.
- New York. New York Public Library, 5th Avenue, and 42nd Street, New York City.
- New York State Library, Albany, New York.
- Ohio. Cincinnati Public Library, Vine Street, Cincinnati.
- Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland.
- Pennsylvania. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh.
- Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, Philadelphia.
- Texas. Texas State Library, Austin.
- Washington. Seattle Public Library, Seattle.
- Canadian National Institute Library, 64 Baldwin Street, Toronto, Canada. (over next)
- Honolulu. Library of Hawaii.*  
*Revised under the Federal Library.*



LIBRARY AND PRESS NOTES.

Embossed catalogs are always in demand. The American Braille Press has brought out a limited edition of one which should be very popular for it includes every book in grade 1½ up to date of publication. It is a bound volume of some 120 pages with a suppliment under date of March 1931. If there is a demand for this catalog it will be kept up to date by means of one or two supplements a year and a revision at certain intervals. Copies may be bought from the American Braille Press for \$2.00 each (remittance to be made by international money order) or may be borrowed from any of the libraries.

The Library of Congress has issued a list which should prove very useful. It is the "Union catalogue of hand-copied material in braille, grade 1½, in the Library of Congress and various other libraries for students and advanced readers", compiled by Adelia Hoyt, Director of Braille, Library of Congress. Only non-fiction is included. The initials of the libraries owning the book are given after each title. This is a printed list. The edition is small so distribution will necessarily be limited. Every library will have a copy on file and librarians will find it of assistance in locating books. Further inquiries concerning this are referred to Miss Hoyt.

The Detroit Public Library has issued a printed list of its hand copied books. It includes many interesting titles and may be had upon request.

A new edition of the catalog of the Canadian National Library has just been completed and is being distributed to the Canadian readers. This catalog is revised every fifth year. Additions to this library are announced regularly with book notes and special recommendations through the pages of the Braille Courier, a publication of the National Institute.

1. The following is a list of the books in the collection of the Library of the University of California, Los Angeles, which are now in the possession of the University of California, Los Angeles, and which are now in the possession of the University of California, Los Angeles.

concerning the title referred to this day.

copy on this and the other will find it of considerable interest. Further details  
edition is well as distribution will necessarily be limited. Every library will want a  
the library owner, the book was given after each title. This is a revised list. The  
Director of Public Library of Congress, and non-fiction is included. The initials of  
and various other libraries for additional and advanced readers, compiled by David  
"Union Catalogue of card-catalogued material in printed form is, in the Library of Congress  
The Library of Congress has issued a list which should make very useful. It is the

10-11-68. The above information was obtained from a review of the files of the FBI, New York Office, and the files of the FBI, New York Office, and the files of the FBI, New York Office.

A new edition of the Catalog of the Canadian National Library has been completed and is being distributed to the Canadian networks. This Catalog is revised every fifth year. Additionally this library are announced regularly with book notes and special recommendations through the pages of the Bulletin Connexion, a publication of the National Institute.

18  
Millikan  
From August History

Robert Andrews Millikan was born in Illinois in 1868, was graduated from Oberlin College in 1891, received his Ph.D. degree from Columbia University in 1895, and after a year of study in Germany went to the University of Chicago. Here he worked for twenty-five years as a colleague of Michelson and made, in addition to many other researches, his measurements of the charge of the electron, for which he is chiefly noted. In 1921 he went to Pasadena, where he has been chairman of the executive council of the California Institute of Technology. In spite of his arduous administrative duties he has actively continued his investigations, notably in the field of cosmic rays. During the World War Millikan volunteered his services and was made chief of the science and research division of the Signal Corps, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Not only in the activities of American scientific organizations, but also in stimulating international cooperation on scientific problems, Millikan has taken a leading part. His laboratory has always been a haven for scientific men searching for an inspiration and a place to carry on their own investigations. Perhaps no scientist has ever personally supervised the researches of more young men than has Professor Millikan. He is one of those rare spirits who can envision the political and economic significance of science and at the same time keep that personal interest in his fellows which enables him to give them welcome encouragement.

Millikan's most important contribution to science was his precise measurement of the charge of the electron. In 1895 J.J. Thomson had given convincing evidence that the "cathode rays," appearing when an electric current passes through rarefied gas, consist of streams of minute particles carrying electric charges. These particles came to be known as electrons. Rough estimates of the charge carried by each electron indicated that it was probably the same as that carried by a hydrogen ion when water is dissociated by an electric current.

Robert Andrews Millikan was born in Illinois in 1896, and graduated from Oberlin College

in 1917, received his Ph.D. degree from Columbia University in 1921, and after a year at  
Harvard he went to the University of Chicago. Here he worked for twenty-five years  
as a colleague of Michaelson and Pease, in addition to many other researches, his researches  
being of the group of the electron, for which he is best known. In 1921 he was  
President, where he has been chairman of the Scientific Council of the California Institute  
of Technology. In spite of his many administrative duties he has never lost touch with  
his own researches, notably in the field of cosmic rays. During the war he was  
in charge of his services and was made chief of the National Bureau of Standards  
in 1941, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Not only in the activities of American scientific organizations, but also in  
international cooperation on scientific problems, Millikan has taken a leading part.  
His researches have been a never-ending source of scientific research, for in his  
place to carry on their own investigations. Perhaps no scientist has ever personally  
done the researches of more years than has Professor Millikan. He is one of those who  
give us a new view of the physical and economic difficulties of science and at the same  
time show that there is interest in his fellow which enables him to give them advice and  
encouragement.

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same as that carried by a hydrogen ion when water is dissociated by an electric current.



Further studies suggested that all electricity was probably divided into such "electronic units". To test this assumption, however, it was necessary to make accurate measurements of individual unit charges.

Approximate measurements of these charges had been made by J.J. Thomson, H.A. Wilson and others, but their methods needed refinement before the precision could be attained that Millikan wanted. A tiny drop of oil from an atomizer was made to catch or lose an electron, and its motion was watched when between two parallel electrified plates. From the rate of this motion the size of the electric charge could be calculated. Many drops of various sizes, charged in different ways, were measured. The oil drop was replaced by a drop of mercury. Always the charge on the drop was a small whole multiple of a certain unit. From the average of all the readings the unit charge could be measured to about one part in a thousand.

Why should we want to know this constant exactly? First, because the electron is one of the three fundamental elements of which it seems the world is made (electrons, protons and photons). The electric charge carried by the electron is its most characteristic property, and hence is one of the basic facts of nature. Second, if this electronic charge is known, we are able to calculate with precision many other interesting things, such as the number of molecules in a cubic centimeter of air, the weight in grams of any atom, the distance between layers of atoms in a crystal, and other quantities with which scientists concern themselves. The charge of the electron is thus a quantity which is second only to the velocity of light as a fundamental constant of nature.

Millikan's determination of this constant has been criticized from time to time, and many have failed to see how its precision can be as great as he has claimed. However, though new and independent methods have been devised for measuring the electronic charge, the value which he obtained seventeen years ago seems to be the most reliable that has yet been obtained.

The thorough experimental methods employed by Millikan have enabled him and his collaborators to make marked advances in many other fields. Especially noteworthy are his precision measurements of the speed of the electrons in photoelectric cells, which verified more completely a theory of Einstein based on the conception of light corpuscles. At one time

Further studies suggested that all electrically active substances must be "electrolytic" in nature. To test this assumption, however, it was necessary to make accurate measurements of individual

unit charges.

Accurate measurements of these charges had been made by T. J. Thomson, R. A. Millikan and others, but their methods needed refinement before the precision could be obtained. Millikan stated: "A tiny drop of oil from an atomizer was used to obtain an electron, and the action was repeated until between two parallel electric plates. From the rate at which the drop fell the electric charge could be calculated. Many drops of various sizes, charged in different ways, were measured. The oil drop was replaced by a drop of paraffin.

At the bottom of the drop was a small white needle of a test tube with. From the average of all the results the unit charge could be measured to about one part in a thousand.

Why should we want to know this constant exactly? First, because the electron is one of the basic constituents of which it seems the world is made (electrons, protons and neutrons). The electric charge carried by the electron is the most characteristic property, and hence is one of the basic factors of nature. Second, it is the electric charge is known, we

are able to calculate its frequency and other interesting things, such as the number of electrons in a cubic centimeter of air, and so on in terms of any atom, the distance between atoms of atoms in a crystal, and other quantities with which scientists connect themselves. The charge of the electron is thus a quantity which is second only to the velocity of light

as a fundamental constant of nature.

Millikan's determination of this constant has been criticized from time to time, and many have failed to see how its precision can be as great as he has claimed. However, though new and independent methods have been devised for measuring the electronic charge, the value which he obtained seventeen years ago seems to be the most reliable that has yet been ob-

ained.

The thorough experimental methods employed by Millikan have enabled him and his collaborators to make marked advances in many other fields. Especially noteworthy are his precise measurements of the mass of the electron in photoelectric cells, which verified more completely a theory of Einstein based on the conception of light quanta. At one time

also he held the record for having obtained the shortest wave length ultra-violet light that had been observed. Recently he has devoted his main attention to the study of cosmic rays, those mysterious messengers that seem to come from interstellar space. It is in fact perhaps fair to say that the work of Millikan and his collaborators has given the first strong evidence that these rays come from outside the earth, though such an extraterrestrial origin had long been suspected. Though the true meaning of these cosmic rays is yet uncertain, Millikan's investigations have served to focus the attention of the scientific world on them as a problem of fundamental importance.

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The love of literature is one of the oldest and most persistent traits of the human race.

Long before there was a reading public, the minstrels sang of the deeds of heroes to the people who gathered round to hear their lays. When their children learned to make permanent records, they preserved these stories in the Iliad and the Odyssey, in Beowulf, Widsith, and the Eddas. As the race has grown old, this love of story and song has increased. Even today in America, in an age that likes to call itself practical and unromantic, the love of story is one of its most marked characteristics. On the train, at the railway station, in

the subway, on the street corner, in the drug store, reading matter vies with tobacco and gets in popular demand. There are scores of magazines of a literary nature, ~~any one with~~ a circulation in the thousands, while popular novels sell by the hundreds of thousands. Several weeklies are devoted exclusively to reviews and criticisms of books. Even when one buys a paper or magazine of a technical nature, the chances are that there is a story or poem tucked in among the directions about farming or housekeeping, religion or engineering. For every one enjoys reading; every one likes a story. The child who is too little to read, begs for a tale; and the old man who is too weak to hold up his book, asks that it be read to him. The small boy reads when he ought to be studying his lessons; the learned professor reads when he ought to be attending a committee meeting. The sentimental young lady and the practical young man, the convict in prison, all read. No matter what his ~~marked position~~ social status, no matter what his profession, every human being craves some form of literature.

#### 1. The Test Of Time.

Moreover, each person has certain standards by which he judges a book, and he pronounces it good or bad as it conforms or fails to conform to them. These standards differ very markedly; what one person calls "trash," another may call "Thrilling"; and what a third calls "interesting," a fourth may pronounce "stupid" or "dull." Why he calls any book "interesting" or "stupid," the average person would find it difficult to say. When called to account for his literary ~~states~~ likes and dislikes, he is as much put to it as the Oxonian in the epigram,

I do not love thee, Doctor Fell,  
The reason why I cannot tell,  
But this alone I know full well,  
I do not love thee, Doctor Fell.

Oronius in the epigram.

I do not love thee, Doctor Fell,  
The reason why I cannot tell,  
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The love of literature is one of the oldest and most persistent traits of the human race.  
The standards of literature, from the days of literature, by Thomas Lodge,  
With permission of the publishers, Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

He knows there are a great number of books, long considered good books, which for that reason are studied as the "classics" of the language. But why these are considered good and how they are better than others, he cannot say.

This indefiniteness as to what constitutes a good book leads one to ask, What are the standards for literature? By what right is it said that one book is good and another and another bad, or that one book is better than another? What are the bases of criticism? Is there any standard on which all may agree?

As a matter of fact there is only one standard by which the quality of a book may be estimated, and that is the very one used by the average person: its interest, its popularity. A good book, however, is not one that is liked for only a short period; it remains popular for a long time, and therefore it is said to live. A good book is one that is liked by all people, in all places, and at all times.

Of course no book was ever good in the sense that it proved interesting to every individual in the world. The good book is liked by all types, all kinds of people. Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn are books for boys, as are Nick Carter stories. Girls and grown-ups usually enjoy the adventures of Tom and Huck, and they do not usually care for those of Nick Carter; therefore, we say the first two are the better stories. A Child's Garden of Verses, The Golden Age, and the stories of Peter Rabbit were written for children--children enjoy all three. Adults enjoy A Child's Garden of Verses and The Golden Age; they do not take any pleasure in Peter Rabbitt; therefore we say the Peter Rabbit books are not so good as the ~~others~~ other two. Moreover, a book that appeals to a small class of people only is not so good as a book that appeals to all classes. It does not matter if the small group is composed of a very select, very cultured people. Walter Savage Landor recognized that he appealed to such a group when he said, "I shall dine late, but the dining-room will be well lighted, the guests few and select; I neither am nor ever shall be popular." But in these words he was saying that he could never be counted one of the greatest poets, for the truly great writer must appeal to all people.

He must appeal also to the people of all places and of all countries as well. It seems absurd to say that a book should be liked in New York as well as in Chicago,



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for the differences between the two cities are so slight that what is popular in one would seem inevitably to be popular in the other. Such is not the case, however, in the theater. Plays that are successful in one city are frequently not successful in the other. But the play that is popular in both cities is probably the better play. The book that can be enjoyed in England and America is greater than the book that can be appreciated in England alone. Goethe, Heine, Ibsen, and Tolstoi are not read only in Germany, Norway, and Russia. Dante is not a poet for Italians alone but for all people. Shakespeare would not be counted the world's greatest writer if only the English found pleasure in his plays. He is liked by all people in all countries.

The great book must appeal to all times. Every one is familiar with the meteoric progress of the "best seller". Two, three, or five hundred thousand copies are sold in one year, and the book is not heard of afterwards. Twenty years ago David Harum was a "best seller"; every one was telling how David managed the balky horse, or citing some other example of his homely wisdom. Nowadays few refer to the book, and few not of this generation have even heard of it. Since David Harum, The Calling of Dan Matthews and Freckles have come and gone. Yet Kipling's Kim(1901), which was published about the time of David Harum, is still read. Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter(1850) is now a favorite, though it is fifty years older than Freckles. The novels of Jane Austen and Sir Walter Scott are enjoyed after one hundred years, the plays of Shakespeare after three hundred years, the poems of Chaucer after five hundred years, the epics of Homer and the tragedies of Sophocles after two thousand years. A book may be very popular with the people of some special age because it reflects their interests, or takes up their immediate problems, and so it may become a "best seller"; but the book that is really good will be liked by all people, in all places, and at all times.

11. Universality.

In any community of people, whether it be a small village or a great nation, two different kinds of traits may be distinguished. There are first those which are peculiar to, and characteristic of, that community, and which assume different forms in other communities; for that reason we may call them variable traits. Nearly all customs and manners and a great part of language and religion, belong to this class of the variable traits.

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There are also other characteristics which are common to all human beings, and which remain the same in spite of differences of manner, language, or religion. Chivalry, courage, disappointment, love, hate, these are the same in all people of all nations and of all times. Such traits we call universal.

Any book naturally reflects both kinds of traits. Hamlet reflects Elizabethan England, its language, its customs, its modes of warfare, its disputes ~~over~~ <sup>over</sup> child actors; it also reflects the universal man, his perplexity, indecision and nobility of soul. In order to appeal to people of different ages and different races a book must reflect primarily the universal rather than the variable traits. Such we find to be the case if we look at any of the great classics. We are not interested either in Lear or Oedipus because he wore different clothes, spoke a different language or worshiped a different god from ours. We like him because, under all those differences, he seems a man like ourselves with the same problems to solve and the same difficulties in solving them. Because a good book appeals to the universal traits of humanity, it is said to possess universality.

In the case of any particular book, however, it is very difficult to tell whether it reflects primarily variable or universal traits. In fact it is impossible to tell accurately until sufficient time has elapsed to give the critic perspective. It seems easy, for instance, to know that Shakesp~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> possesses universality, and we can see evidences of his genius even in his earliest writings. Yet to one of his contemporaries, Greene, he was "an upstart Crow"; and even the critic and poet, Dryden, writing fifty years after Shakespeare's death, is hesitant in the expression of his belief in Shakespeare's supremacy. In comparing Shakespeare with ~~xxx~~ Ben Jonson, Dryden says Shakespeare is "at least his equal, perhaps his superior."

We say in reading Oedipus, King of Thebes, or King Lear, "The characters are human, *they* are like us." The people who enjoy the novels of to-day feel that the characters in *then* ~~then~~ <sup>human,</sup> are ~~human~~, but will the people who live two hundred or two thousand years from now still *still* feel that these characters are like themselves? Are the people who read The Forsyte *Saga* ~~the~~ today pleased merely by the picture of themselves, their age, their customs, or has it also worthy given a picture of universal human relationships? One of the magazines has been publishing the opinions of various critics as to what books of the present time will live



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We say in reading Oedipus, King of Thebes, or King Lear, "The characters are human, they are like us." The people who enjoy the novels of to-day feel that the characters in them are like them, but will the people who live two hundred or two thousand years from now still feel that these characters are like themselves? Are the people who read The Tropic of Cancer today pleased merely by the picture of themselves, their age, their customs, or has the picture given a picture of universal human relationships? One of the magazines has been publishing the opinions of various critics as to what books of the present time will live



a hundred years. One thinks that Romain Rolland's Jean-Christophe will live, another, John Galsworthy's The Forsyte Saga, a third, Arnold Bennett's tales of the Five Towns. Each critic has selected those works which seem to him to appeal to the universal. But critics may be mistaken. Critics thought Carlyle a barbarian, Keats a thin-skinned sensualist, and Tennyson a sentimental young fool. In other words we cannot say with certainty that a book has universality until it has stood the test of time.

Universality is not the same as age. It is that quality in writing which appeals to the universal traits of humanity. It is a quality they may be possessed by a book written to-day as well as by the recognized masterpieces. The only accurate test of its presence however, is the test of time. A book lives if it has universality; the proof that it has universality, is that it lives.

III. The Laws of Literature. solely  
Universality is like electricity; no one knows what it is, and it is defined solely in terms of its power. But like electricity some of its manifestations may be described. The books that have lived may be studied, their common characteristics picked out, and the "universal" traits discovered. It was in this way that Aristotle discovered the principles incorporated in his Poetics. He examined the plays of his time so wisely that his work is still studied for the principles of the drama. His practice has been that of all critics since his time. Finding the common traits of the books that have lived they have formulated from them the so-called "laws" of literature.

A law in this sense is not a command or an order by which some practice becomes right or wrong. The laws of literature are like the laws of the natural sciences; statements of the usual phenomena, the common occurrences. It is a law, for instance, that pigs and horses walk on four feet and human beings walk on two. If by some strange cataclysm men should begin ~~to walk~~ walking on their hands, and in a thousand years all men walked on hands as well as feet, the law would be changed and would state that men, like pigs and horses, walk on four feet. In the same way the laws of literature represent merely the inferences, hypotheses drawn from study and comparison of books that have lived. No story or poem has ever been known to live which did not show imagination or which did not appeal to the emotions. Therefore, the law states that good literature must be the work of the imagination and that it must appeal to the emotions.

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Galsworthy's The Forsyte Saga, a third, and I forget the title of the first novel.  
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Because these laws are only inferences, they are not absolute. The law itself may be incorrect in that it may be a false inference from the known or available data. For instance, in the Renaissance the critics saw that the plays of the Greeks possessed the power to live; they saw also that all the plays of the Greeks were written in approximately the same form; they drew the conclusion that any play to be good must be written in that form. We know now that this inference is false, for the plays of Shakespeare, which possess an even greater degree of universality than do those of the Greeks, are not written in that form. Again, the laws of literature, being inferences from the past, cannot take into account the development of the future. Aristotle knew nothing of a play with two plots and took no account of such a drama in his Poetics. Shakespeare proved that a play with several actions may make as permanent appeal as a play with only one plot.

The laws of literature, then, cannot be stated dogmatically; certain books have lived, and we try, by studying those books, to determine the characteristics that have given them lasting value. The conclusions may be wrong, but the method is, nevertheless, right. There is only one rule for determining the values of literature; namely, to study the books that have lived and from them determine the laws of literature and the qualities of a writing that make it live.

#### IV. Method of Studying the Laws of Literature.

Though there is only one way to determine these values, there are several ways to study them.

1. Specimens of prose and poetry may be studied and the good and bad points in them pointed out directly. This method has the advantage that the student gains an acquaintance with good books, and for that reason it is the plan usually followed in high school and college courses in literature. It has the disadvantage that the values of literature can be discussed only as they are illustrated in the particular writings being studied, and the student's information about them is thus not well systematized. When he has finished his courses in literature, he knows certain books, and he knows the history of the period or the chief characteristics of a type or an author, but he does not have any definite standard by which he can evaluate other writings.

2. The laws of literature as they have been determined by scholars and critics may be classified in a more or less complete and scientific system. When presented in this way they



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represent the science of literary criticism and form a part of the more general study of aesthetics, which is the science or theory of the fine arts. The objection to this plan of study is that the theory of literature is usually presented as an abstract science. It is separated from the direct study of literature and for that reason can be understood only by those who have broad knowledge of the arts.

3. A third plan attempts to obtain the advantages of both of the others by following the method usually adopted in the study of the natural sciences. In chemistry or biology, for instance, the principles or laws of the subject, having been classified and arranged, are presented to the student in orderly, scientific form. As each principle is studied, the pupil is given concrete illustrations in the laboratory. So in the study of literature the laws or principles may be presented in an orderly fashion with illustrations of each principle. In this way the student will learn the laws of literature and at the same time increase his knowledge of the great writers.

[illegible]

...and the great art to explain it.

"I believe we should open the romances of Hawthorne and the romances of this spring," he continued, "just in the same spirit, to find out what is in them, to see if they please us, and then perhaps to explain to ourselves what the quality of the pleasure is."

Having at one time undertaken a study of the wealth and financial backing of successful literary figures, he concluded that few men lived who could display genius while hungry, admitting the one great exception, Edgar Allen Poe. "Poverty," he asserted, "is the great enemy of life." *and because it is the enemy of life.*

He wore a large, dark bow tie until his hair began to turn white, then he changed to white bows. Interviewers continually pointed out the humanness of his nature, declaring "there was nothing pretentious about him, nothing austere, or bibliophile, but rather that the twinkle in his eye bespoke the fact that he enjoyed life as though it were a game."

His other published works included "The Romance of America as Told in Our Literature," 1929; "Feminism and Femininity," 1930, and in collaboration with Blanche Colton Williams, "Do You Know English Literature?" 1930.





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